

**MYTHOLOGY BY JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY ABOUT JBS MEMBER,  
REV. DELMAR DENNIS, FBI INFORMANT INSIDE THE WHITE  
KNIGHTS OF THE KKK OF MISSISSIPPI - rev. 2/7/21**

The following report is written to address the numerous falsehoods and misrepresentations of the John Birch Society about one of their members (Rev. Delmar Dennis) whom, although personally courageous, was NOT what the JBS pretends.

As often is the case with the Birch Society, JBS defenders like JBS Communications Director Paul Druga or Alex Newman artfully select only certain isolated superficially positive data about the JBS as a means of presenting their self-congratulatory arguments about the JBS but they deliberately OMIT all the unpleasant but more relevant details - because they are NOT helpful for their narrative.

FBI documents make it clear that Rev. Delmar Dennis was a product and an adherent of the prevailing racist values of white Mississippians during the 1950's and 1960's. These are the folks that elected and re-elected U.S. Senator James Eastland, a life-long white supremacist, who sought and received KKK support for his political campaigns. These are the same folks who repeatedly elected racist bigots as Governors such as Ross Barnett of Mississippi.

The FBI Special Agent in Charge of the Jackson MS field office wrote in a summary memo about Delmar Dennis that he was “widely known in rural Mississippi as an ardent segregationist...He founded the First Southern Methodist Church in Mississippi, which church was founded for the sole intent of maintaining racial segregation.” [FBI-HQ 170-249, serial #1, page 2; 11/9/64 SAC Jackson MS to J. Edgar Hoover.]

In March 1964, (many months before he became an FBI informant) Dennis became the 32<sup>nd</sup> member of a Meridian, Mississippi Ku Klux Klan chapter and in April he became Chaplain, of Unit 1, of the Lauderdale MS Ku Klux Klan Klavern. Prior to actual membership he attended KKK meetings. He was also a JBS member at this time.

Before becoming an FBI informant, Delmar also was a member of the racist group, Americans for the Preservation of the White Race.

Dennis also served on the Board of Directors of the White Christian Protective and Legal Defense Fund which was a Klan front group that was used to raise funds for the defense of 18 individuals involved in the murders of civil rights workers in the summer of 1964 (aka the MIBURN case). For details of this case see:

[https://archives.fbi.gov/archives/news/stories/2007/february/miburn\\_022607](https://archives.fbi.gov/archives/news/stories/2007/february/miburn_022607)

In 1964, Dennis wrote a pro-segregation pamphlet entitled “*The Unconquerable Land*”. He also was Chairman of the White Citizens Council chapter in Lauderdale County MS as well as Chairman of the Public Affairs Committee of the White Citizens Council chapter in Meridian MS.

In July 1965, Dennis accepted the position of Exalted Cyclops in his local United Klans of America chapter.

In November 1965, Dennis attempted to organize a new pro-segregation group in his community, called the Patrick Henry Society.

Rev. Dennis told his FBI case agent that: “...I have learned that the Klan uses meetings of the John Birch Society, Masons, and Americans for the Preservation of the White Race to solicit members for the Klan. The Auxiliary Police in Neshoba County is a front for Klan membership in Neshoba County.” [FBI-Jackson 197-17905-5 (Byron de la Beckwith file), no serial number, Sub-A file, section 1, 11/7/64 Dennis report].

After he surfaced as an FBI informant against the Klan in Mississippi, Dennis told the Special Agent in Charge of the Jackson MS FBI field office that there were “numerous resignations by other members” of the John Birch Society in the Meridian MS area because they were Klan sympathizers! [Note: the JBS Coordinator for Mississippi at this time (J. Vernon Pace) confirmed this to the FBI.]

Dennis declared during one post-FBI newspaper interview:

“I am doing nothing now but am going on a speaking tour with the (JBS) American Opinion Speakers Bureau. I will be telling Americans everywhere the truth about what goes on inside the klan...I am definitely a segregationist and I also believe in obeying the laws of the land.” [Carthage MS Carthaginian, 12/14/67, p1].

What the JBS is very careful not to report is that Rev. Dennis was never opposed to Klan ideology about the assumed moral and intellectual inferiority of African Americans. His objection to the Klan was not to its racism but solely to its violent and criminal activities (because of his religious convictions). Nevertheless, Dennis was hired by the JBS as a Coordinator and as a paid speaker on the JBS lecture circuit.

The FBI recognized the danger which the JBS and its anti-civil-rights front group (TACT) represented. In one document, the FBI predicted that “Dennis, by virtue of his work in behalf of the Bureau, will continue to be tempted by organizations such as the John Birch Society who will want to selfishly exploit him”. [FBI-Jackson 197-17905-5 (Byron de la Beckwith file), no serial number, 01/16/68 Special Agent in Charge FBI-Jackson field office to J. Edgar Hoover.]

The FBI fear re: JBS exploitation of Dennis became real when Dennis started working for the JBS as a paid speaker for its anti-civil-rights-movement front-group TACT (Truth About Civil Turmoil). Dennis sent the Bureau a copy of a JBS flyer advertising his speech entitled “*I Was in the KKK for the FBI*”.

The flyer quotes Dennis stating that:

“The Ku Klux Klan has become an important tool of Communist agitators who want to bring a race war to America. I know this from personal experience.”

[**NOTE:** There is not a single reference to this in any of the dozens of oral and written reports he submitted to the Bureau over a period of 3 ½ years! Dennis never associated the Klan with “*Communist agitators*” until after he became a paid employee of the JBS so that his public statements would conform with JBS ideology.]

A similar situation occurred with respect to African American FBI informants inside the CPUSA who subsequently became paid JBS speakers (Julia C. Brown and Lola Belle Holmes). They contradicted their sworn public testimony and their numerous oral and written reports to their FBI case agents so that their JBS speeches would conform to JBS ideology.

The FBI's evaluation of Lola Belle Holmes after she became a paid speaker for the JBS:

"After she was discontinued as an informant, she displayed signs of emotional instability and it was necessary to admonish her to cease making false statements which were embarrassing to the Bureau." [FBI HQ file 134-4473; 10/3/66 "Office of the Director" note].

AND

"It has on previous occasions been necessary to admonish Holmes not to make untruthful statements in which she involved her association with the FBI." [J. Edgar Hoover memo to FBI-Boston field office on July 23, 1969].

The late William H. McIlhany was a JBS member who wrote a 1975 book (*Klandestine: The Untold Story of Delmar Dennis and His Role in the FBI's War*) about Rev. Dennis's experiences within the Klan. McIlhany wrote the following email to me in April 2006 about the John Birch Society magazine, *American Opinion*:

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"I was disappointed that editor Scott Stanley NEVER reviewed *Klandestine* in *American Opinion*. He also published an article in AO praising Elmore Greaves, who ran the KKK-fundraising front I described in *Klandestine*, the so-called White Christian Protective and Legal Defense Fund. When I asked Scott about this, he said, 'You can fight the klan if you want. I'll fight the Communists.' Which indicated he had not read my book.

"Medford Evans, father of M. Stanton Evans, wrote many articles and book reviews in AO, many of which were excuses for essays he wanted to write rather than real book reviews. He had expertise about Soviet theft of the atomic bomb. But he was also heading up the White Citizens Councils in Mississippi, which I thought was rather embarrassing. I visited him when I lectured in Jackson, Mississippi, in the early 70s. It was clear that he did not like what Delmar did. The Mississippi JBS coordinator at that time also said that some JBS members did not like what Dennis did. I always made a point of telling the truth on these matters whenever I had a chance. Bill" [4/5/06 email from William H. McIlhany]

NOTE: Medford Evans was a JBS Coordinator in Louisiana and Texas. He was also a regular contributor to the JBS magazine *American Opinion*. In addition, he was the Editor of the national magazine of the segregationist Citizens Council movement, and he was described by the FBI as a "strong

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JN 170-NEM

Children: 2  
Occupation: Minister, Pine Springs  
Military Service: Southern Methodist Church  
Education: 2 years (no degree)  
Organizations: Methodist Junior College  
Regional Secretary, 30th  
March Society, 30th  
32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason;  
Jew Secretary, Republican  
Party; Member of the Americans  
for the Preservation of the  
White Race (APWR)

F. DATE DESTROYED: INFORMATION  
November 9, 1964

G. EFFECTIVENESS OF RELIABILITY  
Based on information furnished by this individual  
which has been compared carefully with information furnished by  
other reliable informants, the information furnished by this  
informant has been found to be reliable.

H. SECURITY  
Informant is a minister of the Southern Methodist  
Church. He is pastor of the Pine Springs Methodist Church,  
Pine Springs, Mississippi, and the Antioch Southern Methodist  
church, Collinsville, Mississippi.

I. PASS ACTIVITIES IN RACIAL MATTERS  
Informant has been a member of Lauderdale County  
Klavern of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi  
(WKKKK) since March 26, 1954, and the 32nd member created  
in the Meridian area. He is the Chapman of so called Unit 1  
of the Klan and is close to SEBASTIAN and SAIT now, the  
Imperial Wizard of the State of Mississippi.

Informant is widely known in rural Mississippi  
as an ardent segregationist and recently withdrew his church  
from the Methodist Conference into the newly formed Southern

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CONFIDENTIAL

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Methodist Conference. He founded the first Southern Methodist Church in Mississippi, which church was founded for the sole intent of maintaining racial segregation. Informant is a prolific pamphleteer. He is most noted for his pamphlet entitled "The Unconquerable Land" a treatise on his stand on racial segregation.

**J. IDENTIFICATION RECORD**

Informant claims no arrests. PD 9 submitted November 7, 1964. Due to informant's association with Police Departments in Meridian and surrounding areas; his standing in the community, and in an effort not to arouse unwarranted suspicion, no local criminal check will be conducted.

**K. RACIAL ASSOCIATES**

Informant has had frequent contact with SAM BOWERS, Imperial Wizard, WKKKK, and is a close associate of FRANK WENDON, believed admitted Cyclops of the Meridian Chapter and a potential suspect in the KINGSLAND killings. As Chaplain for Unit 1, he is requested to give counsel to Klan members who are conscience stricken, in doubt, or wavering in their fight to preserve the "Mississippi way of life". He frequently gives before Klan groups and is a member of the John Birch Society; a 3000 degree Scottish Rite Mason, and an active member of the Americans for the Preservation of the White Race - organizations through which the Klan recruits members. He has had talks with Sheriff LAWRENCE RAINIER, Neshoba County, and believes he can get closer to him through the guise of "pastoral confidence".

**L. SUMMARY OF INFORMATION FURNISHED**

On November 7, 1964, informant furnished information relating his activities and associates in the WKKKK. He advised that prior to killing MICHAEL SCHWENNER, when the Klan referred to as "Goates", the Meridian Chapter voted to eliminate him. However, informant and others were advised that the action of the Meridian Chapter was unnecessary since at a meeting of the State Klan a vote was taken in March, 1964, to eliminate "Goates".

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In addition, informant has provided information, verified by other sources pertaining to Klan membership and projects and assignments given to Klan personnel.

**M. AVAILABILITY**

Informant is available for assignment throughout Mississippi, but has given no indication he is available to other divisions.

**N. STABILITY**

There has been no indication of furnishing unreliable information or of emotional instability.

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**Memorandum**

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM : F. W. WILKINSON, JR.,  
SAC, JACKSON (170-NM)

SUBJECT: CONFIDENTIAL (200)

Re Jackson letter to Bureau 11/9/64.

**1. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that authority be granted to make payments to above informant up to \$75 per week for services plus \$25 a week for expenses actually incurred for a period of four months, effective November 9, 1964.

**2. RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT**

No change.

**3. CURRENT MEMBERSHIP IN RACIAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Informant is Chaplain of Unit 1 of the Lauderdale Klavern, White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi (WKKKK), and is widely known as an ardent segregationist and a prolific pamphleteer on racial matters. Informant is also a member of the Americans for the Preservation of the White Race (APWR).

**4. SUMMARY OF INFORMATION FURNISHED**

On November 7, 1964, informant furnished information relating his activities and associates in the WKKKK. He advised that prior to killing MICHAEL SCHWENNER, when the Klan referred to as "Goates", the Meridian Chapter voted to eliminate him. However, informant and others were advised that the action of the Meridian Chapter was unnecessary since at a meeting of the State Klan a vote was taken in March, 1964, to eliminate "Goates".

Bureau (RM)

5 - Jackson

WILKINSON

NOV 18 1964

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APPROVED

4 DEC 1 1964

170-NM

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Informant is widely known in rural Mississippi as an ardent segregationist and recently withdrew his church from the Methodist Conference into the newly formed Southern Methodist Conference. He founded the first Southern Methodist Church in Mississippi, which church was founded for the sole intent of maintaining racial segregation. Informant is a prolific pamphleteer. He is most noted for his pamphlet entitled "The Unconquerable Land" a treatise on his stand on racial segregation.

**5. AMOUNT PAID FOR SERVICES**

On November 7, 1964, informant was paid \$100 for information furnished concerning the KINGSLAND investigation, Klan activities at Lauderdale and Neshoba Counties.

**6. TYPE AND NUMBER OF MEETINGS ATTENDED AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Informant has attended meetings since March, 1963, exact number unknown. He attended the June 16, 1964, meeting in Neshoba County prior to the burning of the Mt. Zion Church. However, he was not present at the actual burning of the church since he was unarmed and unarmed Klan members are not allowed to go on a "job".

**7. NUMBER OF WRITTEN AND/OR ORAL REPORTS SUBMITTED**

One

**8. INFORMATION FURNISHED OF UNUSUAL VALUE**

Informant furnished information on November 7, 1964, reflecting that at a meeting of the State Klan in March, 1964, a vote was taken to eliminate MICHAEL SCHWENNER, when they called "Goates".

Informant is in an excellent position to furnish information regarding projects and assignments given to Klan members.

Informant was at the June 16, 1964, meeting with Sheriff LAWRENCE RAINIER when the burning of the Mt. Zion Church was planned. Informant was not allowed to go to the actual burning because he had no gun. The Klan later took up a collection to buy him a .38 caliber snub nose revolver.

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Informant stated that when [redacted] informant and others immediately contacted SAM BOWERS, Imperial Wizard for the State of Mississippi, to determine what action should be taken in covering up further activities and in assisting [redacted] Informant was to receive the dynamic to deny any attempt to assist the dynamic fearing that he may be the one who would be caught with it.

9. APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PERSONS ON WHOM INFORMANT FURNISHED COVERAGE AND THEIR DISPOSITION

Informant has furnished information on Klan members, the Milburn investigation and various persons in Neshoba and Lauderdale Counties. He has furnished and is in an excellent position to furnish information on SAM BOWERS, Imperial Wizard, State of Mississippi, FRANK HENDON, DeMolay Cyclops, Meridian area, and LAURENCE TERRY, Neshoba County Sheriff, all of whom are subjects of intensive Bureau investigation.

10. STEPS BEING TAKEN TO ADVANCE INFORMANT

It has been learned through various other sources that informant is trusted and held in high regard in Klan circles, and there is an excellent chance that he could be elected to the post of Province Grand in the very near future. He intends to concentrate his efforts on the Neshoba County Klan activities. The Imperial Wizard SAM BOWERS has advised the informant that his philosophy of racial segregation, religion and politics is closer to the informants than any man he has ever known. In this regard, informant exhibits excellent potential for advancement in the Klan and is penetrating the hard core of Klan members in Neshoba County.

11. STABILITY AND RELIABILITY

Informant has above average education, having completed two years of college at the Meridian Junior College. He is married, has two children, and appears to have a stable

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home life. In recent contacts he has exhibited stability, the information he has furnished has been corroborated through other sources and he appears dedicated in his efforts in supplying the Bureau with information regarding the Klan.

12. INDOCTRINATION AGAINST DISCLOSURE

Informant has been instructed and cautioned concerning his relationship with the FBI and that he should never under any circumstances indicate that he is associated with any member of the FBI.

13. ALL NECESSARY ACTION TAKEN ON INFORMATION FURNISHED

Information which has been furnished by informant has been set forth for investigative leads to be covered and new cases have been and will be opened on individuals listed by informant as Klan members.

14. MISCELLANEOUS

It is pointed out that this informant over the past several years has built up a reputation in rural Mississippi as an ardent segregationist. He has spoken and written widely on the subject of segregation. He appears to be shrewd and capable and desires to be of assistance to the Bureau on a long range basis.

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For all the chapters of my *JBS Report* which pertain to the Birch Society's relentless attack upon our civil rights movement and its leaders, see:

<https://archive.org/details/john-birch-society-vs-civil-rights-movement-249pp/mode/2up>